

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing as said liquid an aqueous solution.

28. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing as said liquid a non-aqueous solution.

29. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing a thickener in said solution for increasing the viscosity of said liquid solution.

30. (Previously amended) The method of claim 29 including the step of providing as said thickener at least one member selected from the group consisting of a water dispersible cellulosic, an oil emulsion, a protein, and a water-soluble or water dispersible synthetic polymer.

31. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing as said surfactant, a surfactant having a hydrophil / lipophil balance between about 4 and 17.

32. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing as said surfactant a plurality of surfactants.

33. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of providing in said liquid a source of biocompatible cations in an amount that is safe and not toxic to non-insect species, said cations being selected from the group consisting of potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, water-soluble borate, zinc, Ca(OH)_2 and copper.

34. (Currently further amended) A method of eradicating insects comprising the steps of, providing a liquid solution ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising at least one surfactant dissolved in said liquid,

said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants, ethoxylated nonylphenol, amphoteric surfactants and cationic surfactants comprising sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium laureth sulfate, ethoxylated nonylphenol, polyalkylene oxide modified hepthmethyl-trisiloxane, and cetrimonium chloride,

maintaining the solution substantially devoid of an insecticide or a surfactant or other substance that is toxic to non-insect species including higher animals and humans or is harmful to the environment,

placing the liquid solution of the surfactant in a dispensing container,

providing an insect control apparatus for detecting the presence of an insect pest,

detecting the presence of an insect thereby,

expelling the solution ~~from the container~~ as a spray or aerosol from said dispensing container onto the insect through operation of the control apparatus acting responsive to the presence of the insect thus detected by said control apparatus and

applying the spray or aerosol onto the surface of an insect pest whereby a film of the solution thereon reduces the surface tension at the outer layer of the insect's chitinous exoskeleton such that the solution coats out onto the insect blocking spiracles through which the insect breathes sufficient to interfere with respiration thereby killing the insect solely by means other than toxicity of said insecticide or other substance.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the sound of the insect is detected.

Please add the following new claims:

36. An environmentally compatible insect deterrent composition that is not toxic to non-insect species and is devoid of an insecticide or other substance that is toxic to non-insect species

including higher animals and humans or is harmful to the environment comprising,

a solution or dispersion of a surfactant selected from the group consisting of a non-ionic surfactant, ethoxylated nonylphenol, amphoteric surfactants and cationic surfactant comprising sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium laureth sulfate, ethoxylated nonylphenol, polyalkylene oxide modified hepthmethyl-trisiloxane, and cetrimonium chloride,

said solution or dispersion comprising a liquid such that a film of the solution or dispersion reduces the surface tension at the outer layer of the insect's chitinous exoskeleton whereby that the solution coats out onto the insect blocking spiracles through which the insect breathes sufficient to interfere with respiration thereby killing the insect solely by means other than toxicity of said insecticide.

37. The composition of claim 36 and including a source of biocompatible cations that are not toxic to non-insect species including higher animals, said cations being selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ions of potassium and sodium, the alkali-earth metal ions of calcium and magnesium and a water-soluble or dispersible cation that contains boron or copper.
38. The composition of claim 36 wherein the composition includes a thickening agent for increasing the viscosity of the composition.
39. The composition of claim 36 including a biocompatible preservative that is not toxic to non-insect species including higher animals and humans for extending the shelf life thereof.